

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-03

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OSCI, YO

SUBJECT: US-YUGOSLAV SCIENCE: NSF PROJECT QUALITY OF
ELECTRICAL ENERGY (QEE).

REF : A. BELGRADE 4773, B. BELGRADE 3263

SUMMARY- CONVERSATIONS WITH KRANJC AND PIRKMAJER SEPT. 30- OCT 1
INDICATE THAT FAVORABLE OUTLOOK EXPRESSED REFTEL IS NO LONGER
JUSTIFIED AS PIRKMAJER, ULRIH ET AL MOVE TOWARD PROBABLE APPROVAL
OF RANT DOCUMENT WHILE AT SAME TIME VITICATING ROLE OF PRINCIPAL
INVESTIGATOR TO DETRIMENT OF THE PROJECT. EMBASSY REQUESTS
APPROVAL TO ASK GOY FOR EXTRORDINARY MEETING OF JOINT BOARD
IN BELGRADE AT EARLIEST FEASIBLE DATE. END SUMMARY

1. DEAN FAULTY LJUBLJANA HAS INFORMED KRANJC BY LETTER THAT A
"DIRECTOR" WILL BE NAMED FOR QEE. DIRECTOR, NAMED BRELIH, WAS
REPORTEDLY NOMINATED BY MRS. ULRIH. BRELIH TOLD KRANJC SEPT 30
THAT AS DIRECTOR HE UNDERSTOOD HE WOULD, INTER ALIA, HAVE THESE
RESPONSIBILITIES: (A) SOLE AUTHORITY TO SIGN SUBCONTRACTS,
DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMIN AND FINANCIAL DIRECTION OF
PROJECT, REPORTING TO DEAN OF FACULTY, (C) ALL PROJECT
WORKERS REPORT DIRECTLY TO DIRECTOR, (D) DIRECTOR
IS SOLE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF
PROJECT WITH SOLE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE HOW MONEY TO BE SPENT.
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KRANJC REPORTS THAT BRELIH SEEMS REASONABLE AND COMPETENT,

HOWEVER, KRANJC NOTES THAT BRELIH ROLE AS DEFINED ABOVE WOULD LEAVE KRANJC VIRTUALLY WITHOUT AUTHORITY.

2. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, DEAN FAULTY WROTE KRANJC LAST WEEK THAT FACULTY HAS APPOINTED COMMITTEE OF SIX TO "SUPERVISE PROFESSIONAL ASPECTS" OF QEE. RESPONSIBILITIES THIS COMMITTEE NOT FURTHER DEFINED.

3. OCT. 1 SCIATT QUERIED PIRKMAJER ABOUT FOREGOING. PIRKMAJER SAID BRELIH ROLE WOULD BE ABOUT SAME AS GUSTIN, THE FORMER ADMIN OFFICER FOR QEE (WHOSE WORK WAS DIRECTED UNEQUIVOCALLY BY KRANJC). HE SAID NEWLY APPOINTED COMMITTEE OF SIX WAS "INTERNAL MATTER OF FACULTY," OF NO REAL CONSEQUENCE.

4. IN GENERAL, PIRKMAJER WAS EVASIVE AND UNCONVINCING WHEN ASKED IF ROLE OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR BEING SERIOUSLY INFRINGED. EMBASSY RECALLS THAT ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS WHEN KRANJC HAS MADE REPORT DENIED BY PIRKMAJER, KRANJC HAS BEEN PROVED ACCURATE, OFTEN WITH WRITTEN EVIDENCE.

5. EVEN IF GRANT SIGNED NEXT WEEK BY PIRKMAJER, KRANJC OR ANY OTHER PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR IN HIS POSITION WOULD STILL BE SUBJECT TO ADVICE (OR ORDERS) FROM A PROVISIONAL PROJECT COUNCIL, A SIX MAN FACULTY COMMITTEE, A FACULTY SELF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE,

A DIRECTOR AND OKNT. IN EMBASSY VIEW, GOY WOULD USE THESE GROUPS TO ACHIEVE ENDS DESCRIBED REF (B) PARA 3.

6. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT APPROVAL TO ASK GOY FOR EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF JOINT BOARD IN BELGRADE AT EARLIEST MUTUALLY AGREEABLE DATE WITH YORK AND MILLS FOR U.S. AND PIRKMAJER AND SUTLOVIC FOR GOY. AGNEDA WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO QEE. EMBASSY WOULD SEEK FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES:

- A) IMMEDIATE UNBLOCKING OF MONEY APPROVED AND PAID BY JOINT BOARD TO QEE.
- B) ASSURANCE THAT GOY WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE UNILATERAL REVOCATION OF ANY OTHER JOINT BOARD DECISION.
- C) AGREEMENT OF GOY TO SIGN QEE GRANT NOW IN SAME FORM AND UNDER SAME CONDITIONS AS EXISTED INS AS EXISTED IN DECEMBER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1973 WHEN JOINT BOARD
APPROVED QEE IN WRITING.

7. SHOULD GOY FAIL GIVE SATISFACTORY RESPONSE FOLLOWING SEEM TO BE OPTIONS OPEN TO USG.

- A) US RECORD ITS DISSATISFACTION WITH YUGOSLAV ACTIONS OVER PROJECT AND WARN THAT REPETITION THIS PATTERN WOULD CERTAINLY

LIMIT POSSIBILITY OF ANY FURTHER COMMITMENT OF USG OR PRIVATE MONEY TO JOINT BOARD AND COULD JEOPARDIZE WHOLE COOPERATIVE APPROACH EMBODIED IN JOINT BOARD, BUT ALLOW QEE PROJECT TO CONTINUE. THIS HAS ADVANTAGE OF CLEAR NOTICE AND WARNING OF GOY THAT FURTHER TAMPERING WITH JOINT BOARD DECISIONS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IT HAS POSSIBLE DISADVANTAGE WHICH WE IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE YUGOSLAV ACTIONS MAY HAVE SO WEAKENED PROJECT THAT ITS SCIENTIFIC GOALS MAY NO LONGER BE ATTAINABLE.

B) OR: WE PROPOSE THAT NSF FUND PROJECT UNILATERALLY AT ONE-HALF ORIGINALLY CONTEMPLATED BUDGET, USING MONIES NSF CONTRIBUTED TO JOINT FUND. THIS WOULD FREE CORRESPONDING SUM (ABOUT 12 MILLION DINARS) ON YUGOSAV SIDE WHICH GOY COULD EMPLOY UNILATERALLY. THIS PROPOSAL MIGHT SHOCK GOY INTO REVIEW OF PROJECT AT HIGHER LEVEL AND RECONSIDERATION. IT HAS TO DISADVANTAGES: THERE ARE NO PROVISIONS ALLOWING WITHDRAWAL OF JOINT BOARD MONIES AND GOY MIGHT REFUSE TO AGREE. FURTHER WE CONCERNED ABOUT USG PROPOSING ACTION WHICH COULD HAVE EFFECT OF DIMINISHING SIZE OF JOINT FUND AND IF ACCEPTED BY GOY COULD SET PRECEDENT FOR FURTHER UNRAVELING OF JOINT BOARD APPROACH.

C) OR: USG PROPOSE THAT PROJECT BE CANCELLED AND THAT MONIES BE EMPLOYED FOR OTHER PROJECTS. THIS OPTION WOULD MAKE SENSE ONLY IF SCIENTIFIC GOALS OF PROJECT ALREADY COMPROMISED. COULD CONSTITUTE SHOCK TO GOY AND CAUSE REVIEW AND RECONSIDERATION: WOULD HAVE DISADVANTAGE, HOWEVER, OF LOSING WHATEVER OF SCIENTIFIC VALUE COULD STILL COME FROM PROJECT UNDER CONDITIONS SET BY GOY.

8. EMBASSY REQUESTS GUIDANCE ON FOREGOING OPTIONS AS WELL ANY OTHER POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO PROBLEM, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A STATEMENT OF MINIMUM USG REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTINUED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN PROJECT.
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